

Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Ministers Meet in Abuja for 34th ECOWAS Ministerial Session

AB1212174293 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The 34th session of the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Council of Ministers has opened in Abuja, the Nigerian capital. In a message to the opening, the head of state, General Sani Abacha, drew the attention of the ministers to serious obstacles to the early realization of the economic integration of West African subregion. The obstacles, he said, include the lack of implementation of the ECOWAS trade liberalization terms, the restructuring of the community's fund, the implementation of the ECOWAS' role and decisions, and the tackling of the problems of financial contributions to the community by member states.

Gen. Abacha charged the session to examine and propose solutions to these problems in order to quicken the objectives of the organization. He said the meeting was convening at a time most member states were facing serious and debilitating socioeconomic problems, and urged it to prescribe solutions to them. Gen. Abacha stated that though Nigeria was at present passing through a difficult economic period, it remained committed to the regional organization.

Earlier, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Paul Dossou, who is also the minister of finance of Benin Republic, appealed to member states to honor their financial obligations. The new executive secretary of ECOWAS, Mr. Edward Benjamin, assumed duty after his election at the last ECOWAS meeting in Cotonou in Benin Republic.

Approve Trade Liberalization Scheme

AB1512123093 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, has approved the intensification of the implementation of the trade liberalization scheme among member states. This was announced today in Abuja by the executive secretary of the commission, Mr. Edouard Benjamin, while speaking with newsmen on the outcome of the ministers' 34th session, which ended last night. Correspondent Ima Okondo has the report.

[Begin recording] [Okondo] The adoption of that resolution, among others, was part of the proposals put forward by the head of state, General Sani Abacha, for strengthening the bonds of unity and cooperation among the 16-nation union at the opening of the ministers' meeting. The executive secretary of the commission, Mr. Edouard Benjamin, said it had noted that only four countries had fully implemented the trade liberalization scheme introduced in 1990 to boost economic integration. Closely related to that, is trade deficits affecting members which, according to him, is caused by the consumption culture as against corruption.

[Benjamin] You have to start producing before trading and unless you produce you will not trade. So, I feel that my colleagues and I will in the next few days try to determine what needs to be done to increase production of African countries, and then to promote interstate trade, and after that we will find out what kind of deal we can get on the international (?market).

[Okondo] On improving the problematic economies of members, Mr. Benjamin, said the ministers resolved to establish a structural adjustment plan for the states, which will be applicable to each state. In addition, monetary studies being undertaken by the secretariat will be proposed to the political organs for consideration. On the social sector, he said the council agreed to persuade concerned countries to install democratic structures since only their parliaments can enforce acts and decisions binding on member states; stressing, however, that such systems will be backed with the provision of health and other social facilities for the people. Yet another resolution is a visit to all ECOWAS countries to pursue payment of debts and contributions owed.

Mr. Benjamin, who was appointed last July, also spoke on plans for restructuring the secretariat with the drawing up of a work program, record keeping, good management, as well as accountability to win the confidence of members on its ability to reach such objectives. A communication on information policy would equally be developed to enable it to spread its reach to West Africans, while professional groups, like labor and industry, are to be regularly consulted for expert advice. Gen. Abacha's advice on the restructuring of the ECOWAS Fund, as agreed in 1989, also formed part of the discussions. The ECOWAS Council of Ministers meeting opened last Saturday [11 December] in Abuja with all the members in attendance, [end recording]

Slash '94 Budget

AB1612111693 Dakar PANA in English 1635 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Lagos, 15 Dec (NAN/PANA)—West African countries whose economies are under severe stress, have slashed the 1994 budget of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) about 12.8 percent, ECOWAS Director of Information Adama Gaye said in Lagos on Tuesday. He told reporters after the closing of the 34th session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers meeting in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, that the community had budgeted for about eight million dollars for 1994, down from about nine million dollars in 1993.

Gaye noted that there were growing serious economic difficulties in the sub-region, especially in the area of austerity measures by member states. He announced that the first "ECOWAS prize of excellence" to be awarded in the field of African pharmacopoeia would be 12,000 dollars.

The "prize of excellence", which is aimed at promoting research and excellence in the region, would be awarded

by a jury of renowned scientists in the subregion. The award would be made during the next ECOWAS heads of state summit in Abuja in July.

UN, OAU Delegations, Liberia's Taylor Meet at Gbarnga

AB1512174693 Gharnga Radio ELBC in English 1900 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Several delegations from the UN and the OAU are in Gbarnga holding discussions with President Charles Gankay Taylor, as well as officials of his government and other interest and pressure groups in Greater Liberia—a move towards resolving the Liberian conflict. Among those in Gbarnga are the UN undersecretary, Mr. James Jonah, UN special representative to Liberia, Mr. Trevor Gordon-Somers, and the head of the UN Military Observer Mission to Liberia, Major-General Daniel Opande. The delegations also include the OAU eminent person to Liberia, the Reverend Canaan Banana. The delegation arrived in Gbarnga in a long NPRG [National Patriotic Reconstruction Government]/NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia]-escorted convoy on Tuesday [14 December].

Reports say high on the agenda of the meeting is the immediate sitting of the transitional government. President Charles Gankay Taylor received the high-powered delegation from the UN and the OAU at the Executive Mansion in Gbarnga.

[Begin recording] [Taylor] It is important at this particular time to have a senior UN official in Liberia to change the work of the UN and ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] and the OAU and try to bring some relief to the Liberian people. We want to welcome Ambassador Jonah and his team and President Banana and his team. And we want to stress that our arms are open, and I am really happy that we have been able to accept the fact that... [pauses] that will to do something, that given Liberia's [words indistinct] to defend, we should now give the opportunity to them and I am sure (?we) came with something in mind to [words indistinct] in a very diverse change and, hopefully, I feel we should come up with some workable solution or something that would move us forward, because I think it is important. And when you have crisis as we have had. you have to make sure [words indistinct]. (?We) must continue to press forward and get something done. Liberia must hurry up. Time is against us. [end recording]

[Announcer] President Taylor stressed to the delegation that he does not believe that the coming in of the expanded ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] is a function of the sitting of the transitional government. He said once the Liberian National Transitional Government [LNTG] is seated this will serve as a strong indication to the international community that Liberians are doing something for themselves. President Taylor noted that he expects his delegation in Monrovia to finalize plans with the Monrovia group on the sitting

of the transitional government to serve as Christmas gift for the Liberian people. President Taylor said Amos Sawyer has no choice on this question, saying he has gotten indications from Monrovia that Mr. Sawyer is in agreement on the seating of the government. He hopes this could be done before 20 December. Meanwhile, reports say the Monrovia meeting is continuing with discussions on the modalities of disarmament despite earlier contention put in the way of the discussion by IGNU [Interim Government of National Unity] over already allocated cabinet posts.

For his part, the UN undersecretary, Mr. James Jonah, expressed serious disappointment that, though an agreement was reached among the Liberian parties in Cotonou, the LNTG is still not seated. Mr. Jonah described the Cotonou Accord on Liberia as a watershed in which there was an agreement among all parties concerned.

[Jonah] [Begin recording] I want to thank you very much for the welcome you have extended. I am particularly gratified to be here in Gbarnga. Let me say that the UN considers the Cotonou Accord as a watershed, because in Cotonou all the Liberians—leaders, movements, parties—came to an agreement and they secured the (?principle that) [word indistinct] this agreement, and we want not to look backward but to look forward. We were very hopeful that the process would have been speedier, and I can confirm to you that we are disappointed that we have not yet established the transitional government, because we believe that, psychologically, [words indistinct) this is an essential step for reconciliation amongst the (?groups) of Liberians. There has been great tragedy in this country. (?Let us all think seriously amongst ourselves.) A lot has to be done to reconcile families and friends. And, therefore, we believe that we should waste no time. We are, of course, willing to assist the Liberian parties. We will listen to what they have to say and we will give encouragement to reach this goal, for the speedy installation of the transitional government. But I think that we should understand the mandate given to us by the Security Council. The Security Council called on the secretary general to inaugurate a peace process. We have tried, using our good offices, to encourage the early deployment of the extra battalions, which would enhance ECOMOG's capacity to expedite the disarmament process. We are hopeful that this would be crowned with success in the not too distant future. We cannot at this stage, today, give you a date, but I think we hope to hear something, maybe in the next two days, to be able to have a reasonably good idea as to what could be done. Again I want to say we don't want to look backward. There have been some misunderstandings, bitterness. Let us look ahead. The UN stands ready to assist you, not only in completing the negotiations towards the installation of the transitional government but we are prepared [to help] with the elections. We are making plans now to (?inaugurate) a system for the elections in Liberia. We are also giving serious consideration to the rehabilitation process. So this is the message I want to convey to you and this is what I was asked by the

secretary general to convey to you, that we hope the Liberian people and leaders will continue just as they began in Cotonou—which itself was a continuation of the Geneva meeting and the other (?decisions). We are gratified to know—as I have learned the last few days—

that even as we are here your group, that of IGNU, and that of ULIMO are holding consultations. That is a very good thing. Let us hope that we all can have a very happy Christmas for peace and reconciliation in Liberia. [end recording]

Central African Republic

President Patasse Receives Chinese Team, Comments

AB1712103593 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Chinese and Central African officials met face to face this morning at a meeting chaired personally by Ange Felix Patasse, president of the Republic and head of state, at the Palais de la Renaissance. This meeting, placed under the banner of cooperation, wraps up the visit of the Chinese delegation which came to assess and examine the achievements of the Chinese mission in the Central African Republic [CAR] for the past one year. It also offered President Ange Felix Patasse the opportunity to reaffirm CAR's determination to avoid being held hostage in a Sino-Chinese conflict or to avoid meddling in the domestic affairs of states.

The head of state particularly expressed CAR's desire to encourage the market economy and to, consequently, seek to acquire technology at a time when the threat of the devaluation of the CFA franc is increasingly felt. The head of state pointed out that in the area of cooperation, he supports bilateral relations between Bangui and Taiwan. It is within this context that CAR would like to benefit from China's technology and experience in the agropastoral sphere in this era of the Fifth Republic, President Patasse stressed. The head of state made it clear that he fully appreciates all Chinese projects in the CAR and called for a wider scope of cooperation through the development of new cultures for an integrated development of CAR.

[Begin recording] Dear friends, I would like on behalf of the CAR to greet you or welcome you to this country, and to exhort you to feel at home here. We maintain that we attach great importance to relations between your country, China-Taiwan, and the CAR. We have also declared that our diplomacy will be based on pragmatism. We do not in any way want to be held hostage in Sino-Chinese conflicts. I wish to stress that point, because your country is one that has the kind of technology we appreciate.

In the same vein, if Mainland China decides to have relations with us, let it do so but without any preconditions. For us, the Chinese people are friends so if they have domestic problems we cannot meddle in those because considering the situation that recently prevailed between the East and the West—there was the Berlin Wall but now that wall has tumbled down—there is no longer any such thing like the East Bloc or the West Bloc. There is simply a world of freedom, one that has emancipated itself, and the only valid requirement now is the market economy, the search for technology in order that people of the whole world may feel catered for a while avoiding the Cold War.

For the CAR, we do not intend to break ties with China-Taiwan because the PRC has made headway in its

overtures to us. Hence, we would simply say that each of the Chinas will find their rightful place in CAR. We want to take advantage of your science and technology. As I was telling my friend Mr. Ambassador, we want to see our cooperation diversified and strengthened. [passage omitted]

Indeed, I had the occasion to tell Mr. Ambassador that we appreciate the projects undertaken so far but the scope should be widened by new cultures and new activities which will put our country on the road to integrated development. Faced with the problem of the ever increasing imminence of the devaluation of the CFA franc, the CAR Government needs to prepare to put in place a diversified, integrated program which will enable us to export in order to improve our balance of trade. To this end, we have selected some key sectors. We have identified aquaculture, particularly shrimp farming, because there is a high and unlimited demand for shrimp on the world market. [passage omitted]

We lay special emphasis on developing shrimp farming in the CAR, and I am glad to note that there are eminent professors in your delegation. I wish to thank Mr. Ambassador for conveying our desiderata to the government of your country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

It should be added that this meeting was followed by speeches by the prime minister and the minister of external relations in charge of Francophone affairs, who made concrete suggestions and proposals to the Chinese side for their operations in the CAR.

Congo

Death Toll in Clashes Rises to 'At Least 80'

AB1612162193 Paris AFP in French 1510 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Brazzaville, 16 Dec (AFP)—Sources at hospitals reported a death toll for the week of at least 80 people from gunshots or machetes, due to clashes in Brazzaville between supporters of the presidential group and those of the opposition coalition. These political clashes are taking place in the midst of ethnic conflicts between the Babembe and Lari communities.

Since this morning, a team of policemen have been collecting bodies in the Makelekele and Mfilou districts, south of the Congolese capital, and sending them to the mortuary of the Brazzaville University teaching hospital.

An AFP correspondent at the scene noted that most of these bodies were in a state of advanced decomposition, and that some bodies had been were burned and smelled of kerosene, while others were without hands or legs. The mortuary staff reported that some victims had been burned with kerosene, while others were killed with machetes or knives.

Sources close to the presidential group reported that the death toll could increase with the collection of more

bodies at Mfilou, along the Congo-Ocean Railroad Company railroad line, where the clashes reportedly have been more intense.

Assembly, Senate Adopt Measures on Violence

AB1612223093 Brazzaville Radio Nationale Congolaise Network in French 1830 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Joint statement by the National Assembly and Senate on measures to restore lasting peace in the Congo; issued in Brazzaville on 16 December; read by the Honorable Sylvain Gambolo, independent parliament member from Makotimpoko—recorded]

[Text] The Congolese Parliament, meeting today 16 December 1993, strongly condemns the acts of intolerance and barbarity perpetrated in our country, as well as the perpetrators. It denounces foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Congo and consequently, it has adopted the following measures and directives which must be implemented by all, by virtue of Articles 4 and 103 of the Constitution:

- 1. Measures and directives concerning the parliament. Parliamentary missions must be dispatched abroad to explain the Congo's political realities, and to the interior to awaken the conscientiousness of the population on the need for a lasting peace; at every session of the National Assembly and the Senate, chairmen of parliamentary groups must submit reports on security in the country; deputies and senators must take individual steps in their respective constituencies to generate renewed national conscientiousness; deputies and senators from constituencies where acts threatening the peace of the people have been committed must be interrogated; the national responsibility of parliamentarians must be questioned; joint rallies of peace and national unity grouping the presidential group and the Union for Democratic Renewal-Congolese Labor Party and its allies must be organized: the National Assembly must set up an ad hoc parliamentary commission to monitor and assess the measures and directives adopted by the Parliament. The Senate must play a mediating role and it must be fully involved in efforts toward conciliation.
- 2. Measures and directives concerning the political class. There must be an acceptance of alternative governance through the democratic process; respect for commitments and promises which are made; sincere communication within the political class; frequent meetings between political leaders, chairmen of party parliamentary groups, and political organizations, and so on; permanent contacts between political groupings, the social community, women and youth organizations.
- 3. Measures and directives concerning legally established institutions. There must be respect for legally established institutions, recognizing in particular, the rights and the duties of the ruling administration and those of the opposition, in conformity with existing regulations; the immediate formation of constitutional institutions; the

generation of confidence in cadres through rational use; a speeding up of ongoing legal actions.

- 4. Measures and directives concerning state media. State media must give equal coverage to political training activities and effective and rational use of all state journalists, who must do their work with strict respect for the ethics of their profession; political parties must not interfere in the functioning of state media; state media must not be used to broadcast statements threatening public order and national unity; the adoption of laws concerning the regulation of the activities of communications professionals is urgently needed; legal action will be taken against communication professionals .. ho, in the course of their duty, threaten national unity, in conformity with Article 36 of the Constitution: programs are needed to improve the democratic culture in order to sensitize the people on the need for national conscientiousness.
- 5. Measures and directives concerning people and property. There is the need, in particular, to guarantee the safety of people and property, to ensure equitably the safety of politicians who are entitled to such protection, in conformity with prevailing regulations; to draft as quickly as possible laws regulating the safety of political personalities; to implement Articles 63 and 4, respectively, of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly and the Senate-which are regarded as laws concernig the safety of parliamentarians and senators; to ensure the safety of the people through republican institutions, in conformity with prevailing laws: for security forces to carry out any official actions within the prescribed [word indistinct] and in regular uniforms, with appropriate arrest or search warrants, with the exception of flagrante delicto cases. Any public security officer must identify himself, in accordance with the ethics of that profession; needs to guarantee free movement of people and property in the towns and in the regions; needs to set up joint peace committees in the districts and regions. These peace committees must include government officials, political parties, parliamentarians, local councillors, and religious bodies and; the (?setting up) of a joint commission to visit private jails so as ensure the release all the detainees. These joint commissions must include government officials, political parties, parliamentarians and local counselors.
- 6. Measures and directives concerning victims problems. Victims problems must be progressively resolved; the people must be sensitized by the government, political leaders, and joint peace committees, so as to convince them of the need to ensure their rehabilitation in their usual places of abode: in conjunction with the joint peace committees, the government is to set up the necessary means to ensure that rehabilitation; the National Assembly is to set up an ad hoc parliamentary committee for monitoring government activities relating to the registration and the rehabilitation of the victims.
- 7. Measures and directives concerning the dismantling of armed gangs. Armed gangs are to be disarmed through

concerted action by security forces and joint peace committees. This dismantling is aimed at the dissolution of the armed gangs and the collection of those weapons of war in their possession.

- 8. Measures and directives concerning the security forces. As security and public order are gradually restored, military troops should return to their barracks. Peace and public order will later be ensured by the police and the national gendarmery; the national borders and our entire air space will need to be effectively protected and policed.
- 9. Measures and directives concerning mediation. There is a need for direct coordination in the case of any conflict between the parties involved; mediation efforts, which must include parliamentarians, should be resorted to if needed.

The Parliament, meeting in congress, is consequently calling on: 1) The bureau of the National Assembly to set up without delay an ad hoc parliamentary commission, charged with monitoring and assessing the measures and directives adopted. This commission must submit its first activity report to the bureau of the National Assembly within one month; 2) the government to immediately take all legal measures to restore peace in the country, and in Brazzaville in particular.

Gabon

Security Forces Prevent Opposition Demonstration

AB1612181793 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Excerpt] In Libreville, an opposition demonstration that was slated for this morning did not take place. The opposition, which contested the results of the 5 December presidential election and claimed to have won them, scheduled a so-called peaceful march to go from the (?Square of Democracy) where it planned to lay a wreath, to the Sainte Marie Cathedral where it celebrated mass. The unauthorized demonstration—because of the state of alert in force in the country—was canceled because of the presence of security forces at the spot. [passage omitted]

New Political Party Favoring President Bongo Established

AB1712114593 Libreville RTG Chaine Nationale Radio Network in French 0800 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] A new political party has been founded in our country. The party, which is called the National Union for Democracy and Development [Union Nationale pour la Democatie et le Development], comprises 193 associations from nonpolitical organizations which supported President Omar Bongo's candidacy in the recent presidential elections.

Ethiopia

Organizations Seek Right of Secession in Constitution

EA1612164393 . 'dis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network in Amharic 100: '7MT 16 Dec 93'

[Excerpt] Three organizations have disclosed their stand that the constitution which is to be drafted should give the right of self determination to nations and nationalities, up to secession. The Harere National League, the Gedo People's Revolutionary Democratic Movement and the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, during meetings with their members in their respective areas, noted the importance of the rights of self determination for nations and nationalities up to secession, and said it was the basis for the unity of the people, and the guarantee for everlasting peace. [passage omitted].

Kenya

President Moi Notes 'Worrying Influx' of Guns

EA1612163893 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1000 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today called on all public officers and Wananchi [citizens] in general to give maximum cooperation to the police in their task of combating crime and maintaining security. Emphasizing that Wananchi needed protection so as to go about their business without fear, President Moi said there had to be proper coordination among all government departments and other public offices so as to make the work of the police easier. The president was addressing provincial commissioners, provincial police officers and formation commanders at State House, Nairobi.

President Moi said it was a pity that during the run up to the last general elections certain sections of society were misguided to think that multipartyism was a license to break laws and defy lawful authority. He said this mistaken belief has to be corrected speedily before it takes root.

Noting that there was a worrying influx of guns into the country and a rising wave of motor vehicle thefts, President Moi told the courts to expedite criminal cases to avoid backlog. At the same time, President Moi reminded courts to ensure justice was done and avoid circumventing the law if they wished to preserve their esteem in the eyes of the public.

The president advised chiefs and their assistants not to devote all their time on meetings of a political nature, but to also hold meetings to discuss social issues such as drug-taking among the youth and ways of combating the menace. President Moi thanked all public officers and Wananchi in general for contributing to the success of the celebrations marking the 30th independence anniversary. [passage omitted].

Somalia

SNA Official Denies Aidid Convoy Attacked by Rival Faction

AB1612175493 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Mogadishu, Dec 16 (AFP)—Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid was remaining in Addis Ababa where he attended informal talks last week "because the conference is not finished yet," one of his leading aides said here Thursday [16 December].

Abdi Hassan Awale, foreign affairs spokesman for Aidid's Somali National Alliance (SNA), dismissed rumours that the warlord was stranded in the Ethiopian capital, unable or afraid to return to Mogadishu, saying that Aidid was still "in consultations" with other Somali factions

"We hope that we will have some kind of agreement," Awale said. UNOSOM [UN Operation Somalia], the United Nations operation in Somalia, had "tried to destroy the conference, but many people are willing to cooperate with SNA," he added.

A UNOSOM military spokesman in Mogadishu said earlier that a 10-vehicle convoy had left Somalia for the Ethiopian frontier to meet Aidid but appeared to have been intercepted by a rival faction.

Major Tim McDavitt said they had "unconfirmed reports" that another clan had attacked the SNA convoy some time in the past three days.

Awale, who earlier addressed the bi-weekly rally here of SNA supporters, dismissed the UNOSOM report, adding that Aidid "will take a civilian plane, or a charter, or a U.S. plane." The report was a lie, he said: "Aidid is not afraid, Aidid is strong."

The Addis Ababa conference, which began on December 2, ended last weekend without a formal agreement between Aidid, backed by four factions headed by the SNA, and the "Group of 12" rival factions that are opposed to him.

Aidid's main rival, self-styled "interim president" Ali Mahdi Mohamed, has returned to Mogadishu and has been meeting with other faction leaders in northern Mogadishu, which his forces control.

He has blamed the SNA for the breakdown of the talks, charging that it sought to modify inter-Somali accords signed last March in Addis Ababa.

Official Says Government To Implement GATT Agreement

MB1712104893 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0909 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Pretoria Dec 17 SAPA—The SA [South African] Government will implement the Uruguay Round agreement on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), in close consultation with all interested parties, the director-general: Trade and Industry, Dr S J Naude, said on Friday. In a statement released in Pretoria on the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations in Geneva this week, Dr Naude said that according to the latest information, July 1, 1995, will be the most probable implementation date of the results of the negotiations.

"Participating countries will have until approximately April 1994 to intimate whether they will accept these reults," Dr Naude said. "As is generally known, these negotiations concerned offers in respect of industrial and agricultural products as well as services. Agreed-upon adjustments to the existing offers will now be affected, and in order to assist interested parties, copies of the amended offers will be made as soon as possible," he said.

ANC's Kasrils Says Ciskei Leader To Be Retried

MB1612152293 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Senior ANC [African National Congress] Official Ronnie Kasrils says Ciskei Ruler Brigadier Oupa Gqozo will be retried in future, before what he calls a court of the people. Gqozo was earlier this week acquitted of murdering Ciskei rebel Charles Sebe in 1991. Andrew Trench reports:

Kasrils, a former Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of Vire Nation—MK; ANC military wing] intelligence chief, has told a 32nd anniversary rally of the ANC's armed wing in Mdantsane that Gqozo's murder trial was staged. In Kasrils' words, it was a fake trial. He claims Gqozo did not want to be tried for the murder when South Africa was free, so the Supreme Court had to pretend it was serious about his trial. Kasrils says under a new government Gqozo is going to be tried for Charles Sebe's murder and the killing of 28 people in the Bishu massacre last year. As Kasrils termed it. Oupa Gqozo is going to pay for his crimes. Kasrils also confirmed that hundreds of MK cadres have been sent out of the country for training as officers in a future South African Defense Force.

Kasrils on Election Prospects

MB1712051593 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2028 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] East London Dec 16 SAPA—Hundreds of Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation, MK; ANC military wing] cadres are receiving training abroad in preparation

for integration into the new national army to be formed after the first democratic elections on April 27, African National Congress [ANC] NEC [National Executive Committee] member Ronnie Kasrils told thousands of supporters in Mdantsane on Thursday.

Mr Kasrils, who represents MK in the Transitional Executive Council's [TEC] military structure, was speaking at the Sisa Dukashe Stadium where MK celebrated its 32nd and last anniversary before its dissolution after the election.

He said Transkei's military ruler Major-General Bantu Holomisa and MK Commander Joe Modise would be senior commanders in the new defence force.

Mr Kasrils told the gathering the TEC had agreed MK cadres be entitled to a full pension. Compensation would also be given to families of MK cadres who died in battle, including those who were executed by the South African Government. He said the ANC had resorted to armed struggle in 1961 because there was no other avenue left in its struggle against the government. "MK did not take up arms because we like blood," he said. When the possibility of a negotiated settlement came, the ANC did not hesitate to grab it.

The ANC was certain to win the election and become the first democratic government in South Africa, he said. However, he cautioned that if people did not know how to vote, their chances of electing a democratic government would diminish.

"We will use our power as the government to create jobs, bring peace and prosperity for our people," he added.

He said the Freedom Alliance was a confused grouping which feared justice and sought to disrupt the elections.

Mr Kasrils questioned the acquittal in the Bisho Supreme Court of Ciskei's military ruler Brig Oupa Gqozo on a charge of murder. He said the ANC would reopen the case and try Brig Gqozo for the murder of Mr Charles Sebe, the massacre of 28 people in Bisho last year and for other deaths.

He claimed some members of the Ciskei security forces were going over to the ANC because they realised their future was not with Brig Gqozo.

ANC Military Wing Commander Addresses 16 Dec Parade

MB1612102493 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0851 GMT 16 Dec 93

["Speech" by MK army Commander Joe Modise on the 32d anniversary of the ANC military wing, on the SAPA PR wire service]

[Text] Commander in chief—Comrade. President Nelson Mandela, members of the national executive committee of the ANC [African National Congress], commanders, commissars, officers and combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation—MK], distinguished guests and comrades,

Thirty-two years ago on December 16th Umkhonto we Sizwe, our glorious peoples' army, was formed to prosecute an armed struggle for the liberation of the oppressed and exploited masses of our country from apartheid rule. On this historic day we are gathered here to reaffirm the correctness of that monumental and historic decision to launch the armed struggle spearheaded by Umkhonto we Sizwe

The formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe ushered in a new epoch in our struggle for liberation, it introduced a qualitatively new phase which fundamentally altered the course of our history. The impact of armed struggle combined with the creative application of other complimentary forms of struggle was felt throughout the length and breadth of our country and indeed throughout the world.

Today, it is a reality that we will soon achieve our ultimate objective—the transfer of power to all the people of our country. We of Umkhonto we Sizwe are proud that we have discharged our historic mission with diligence. MK has played a significant role throughout the years of struggle without which the people of South Africa would not have scored the victories we are witnessing today.

Umkhonto we Sizwe—the Spear and Shield of the People

On this day we salute the heroic combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe, we salute our fallen marryrs who made the supreme sacrifice and all those of our people who participated and assisted in ensuring that our armed struggle became an authentic peoples' war of liberation. The masses of this country have not only in theory but in practice proved the historical inevitablity of the end of apartheid colonial rule.

From the bushes of Wankie [now known as Hwange in Zimbabwe] and Sipolilo [in former Rhodesia], the plains of that firm trench of the African revolution—Angola, to Sasol [South African Coal, Oil, and Gas Corporation], Koeberg and Voortrekkerhoogte [military base in Pretoria]. Umkhonto we Sizwe has made an indelible mark on the history of our country and region.

When history recalls the great armed struggles for liberation and freedom of this century, in Vietnam, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guinea Bissau, Algeria, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia amongst others, Umkhonto we Sizwe will take its rightful place alongside those other heroic armies of liberation.

It was Umkhonto we Sizwe's ability to internalise the dialectical relationship between armed and political struggle which made sure that it rooted itself firmly amongst the people. At every single turn in the history of our country, when the brutalization of our people

seemed insurmountable, Umkhonto we Sizwe led the way forward and galvanised our people into action.

The blows that MK struck against the regime not only reverberated in the hearts and minds of our people, but they sent a clear signal to the enemy that we would not take our oppression lying down. Umkhonto we Sizwe drew into it's ranks the finest sons and daughters of our country. Individuals who gave up the most precious thing in life, their youth, in order to bring forward the dawn of freedom. Nothing can epitomise the fighting spirit and love for our people and for life then the words of that great martyr of our struggle and hero of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Solomon Mahlangu who on his way to the apartheid gallows said—"Tell my mother and my people that my blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom".

Such was and is the courage, determination and commitment of our combatants. When we refer to Umkhonto we Sizwe as the spear and shield of our people, we must know that it is our struggle and our people's cause that has created and shaped the individuals who became the great revolutionaries of our history.

Armed Struggle and Negotiations

The unbanning of the ANC and other organisations ushered in a new era in our struggle for democracy and freedom. The present phase should not be viewed in isolation of what has preceded it, the struggles which characterised the history of our country pre February 1990 were threatly responsible for creating the conditions for the unbannings and the subsequent transition to democracy.

Any great historical change, as we are presently witnessing and experiencing, is inevitably accompanied by uncertainty, hence the need to develop a new approach to struggle in line with the changed objective and subjective circumstances. This is a universal reality and we cannot escape this necessity to keep pace with the new situation accordingly.

Umkhonto we Sizwe has also had to take cognisance of this reality. It must be stated unequivocally that from the onset MK understood the relationship between negotiations and armed struggle. The fact that Umkhonto we Sizwe did not view armed struggle and negotiations as two irreconcilable determinants in our struggle, but that negotiations was an inevitable result of the armed struggle and political struggle applied simultaneously, meant that we were able to view negotiations as a logical development of our collective struggle. Hence Umkhonto we Sizwe was and is able to adapt and contribute constructively to the process of democratisation underway in our country.

Since the unbannings of our organisations, Umkhonto we Sizwe has faced many objective and subjective problems. There were essentially two fundamental issues that MK had to come to terms with and internalise. Firstly, the acceptance of negotiations as an inevitable product

of our struggle and sacrifices. With this acceptance arose the need to appreciate the implications of this for MK as regards it's role and function. Secondly, the decision of the ANC to suspend armed activity directly impacted on the functioning of MK.

The return from exile presented specific problems for Umkhonto we Sizwe. Our leadership had to ensure that we return in an orderly manner, regroup internally and remain a disciplined force awaiting our next orders. It must be acknowledged that this was not an easy task. All these problems were compounded by the vicious campaign of regime to destabilise the ANC and in particular Umknonto we Sizwe. Many of these problems are still affecting us presently. Our soldiers have borne the brunt of repression and are continuously harassed, detained, physically beaten and assassinated. Inspite of this Umkhonto we Sizwe has conducted itself in a disciplined and responsible manner and above all has consistently assisted in the process of building the ANC, defending and consolidating the victories of our people and our struggle.

Umkhonto we Sizwe and the Future

It is a reality that South Africa is on the threshold of achieving democracy. This fact places a responsibility on all South Africans to contribute constructively in our efforts to secure the democratisation process and our future. It is precisely because of this that MK places such a heavy responsibility on our role as regards the fundamental restructuring and creation of a new national defence force.

Umkhonto we Sizwe has played an important role in the process of bringing all armed formations under the control of the Transitional Executive Council, in assisting in the process of leveling the political playing field specifically as regards the establishment of the national peacekeeping force and the discussions around the integration process.

Any future democracy in this country will be meaningless if the armed forces are not democratised. It is necessary to ensure that the future national defence force reflect the democratic nature of the new society we are all striving to create. The new national defence force must enjoy the political and moral legitimacy which is vital if it is to enjoy the confidence of the people it is to defend.

A future defence force which is based on the fundamentally undemocratic and racist South African Defence Force [SADF] will not have as it's primary interest the aspirations of the masses of this country and it will not pay allegiance to the democratic constitution.

Today it is clear that MK is going to participate equally, together with other forces, in the formation of the new national defence force. This will indeed afford MK the necessary opportunity to make the new defence force a true defender of a democratic South Africa.

The SADF alone cannot be the guaranter of democracy in our country. For it lacks the necessary legitimacy in the eyes of the overwhelming majority of people in this country. It is therefore the task and duty of Umkhonto we Sizwe to rise to this challenge.

I therefore, as the army commander, order Umkhonto we Sizwe to remain ready to prosecute all the tasks which shall make us move ahead to the creation of the new national defence force based on democratic principles and stand ready to defend our country selflessly as you have done so admirably up to now.

It is imperative that Umkhonto we Sizwe prepared itself to be an integral part of the new national defence force which will come into existence on the 28th of April next year. Umkhonto we Sizwe has already initiated a process of converting our army from an irregular guerrilla force into a professional conventional force capable of playing a crucial role in defending the new democracy.

Umkhonto we Sizwe has arrived at a critical juncture in it's history. Having fought courageously to dislodge the apartheid regime it has to now prepare for the new challenges facing us in the future. Umkhonto we Sizwe has historically developed into a force which at all times acted in the best interest of our struggling people, we are confident that the tradition of a peoples' soldier will be carried forward into the future national defence force.

Umkhonto we Sizwe - a Glorious Past and a Great Future

On this historic occasion, as we are walking the last mile to freedom, we want to recall both our fighting history and the memory of fallen commanders, commissars and cadres who through their sacrifice and heroic example helped to sustain and build the ANC and inspired the growth of the democratic movement.

We recall the very first birth pangs of MK punctuated by a series of bomb blasts in Johannesburg. Port Elizabeth and Durban on December 16th 1961.

We indeed recall with sadness the arrest of the MK high command led by Comrade President Mandela at Rivonia and we are proud to be in their midst today.

We recall the heroic exploits of the Luthuli detachment comprising Mk and Zipra [Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army] guerrillas who engaged the Smith and apartheid forces at Wankie and Sipolilo in Zimbabwe in 1968.

We recall the pitched battles that Mk fought alongside Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] troops against the Portuguese colonialists in Mozambique in 1975.

We recall the first time MK soldiers set foot on Angolan soil after the defeat of the invading South African army by FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] the armed forces of the Peoples Republic of Angola. As well as the courageous and heroic role of MK in fighting UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] in later years to defend Angola and make our commitment to internationalism a reality.

We recall the 15th anniversary of MK on the 16th of December 1976 which heralded a qualitatively new phase in the history of MK.

We recall the Silverton siege, Sasol, Voortrekkerhoogte, Koeberg, the Pretoria car bomb, the attack on Wonderboom police station and the attack on the South African Airforce radar station at Slurry in the western Transvaal.

We recall the spectacular attacks on Orlando, Moroka and Booysens police stations, which came to be known as the G 5 operations.

We recall the bravery and military skills of our soldiers in the Martins Drift area, Sibasa in the northern Transvaal, Mochaneng in the western Transvaal, against the oil storage facilities in the eastern Transvaal and eastern Cape and the attacks against enemy installations in the Orange Free State.

We recall the daring operations of the Robert MacBride unit who rescued their comrade in arms, Gordon Webster, from under the noses of the apartheid security forces and the operation against the Natal command of the SADF.

These are just some examples of the military prowess of Umkhonto we Sizwe amongst innumerable other operations conducted by MK during the years of armed struggle. The list is endless.

Amongst the many of our fallen martyrs we recall and remember with love and admiration Vuyisile Mini, Pangaman Biyela, Flag Botshielo, Barney Molokoane, Solomon Mahlangu, Mogoerane, Makhubu, Mosolodi, Motaung, Gordon Dikepi, Reverend Mandal Msibi, Kate Molale, Cassius Make, Moses Mabhida, Ashley Kriek, Krish Rabilal, Nonhle Makagula, Nomthandazo Khumalo, Surendra Naidoo, Obadi, Paul Dikeledi, Chris Hani, Oliver Tambo, and many other unsung heroes and heroines of our struggle.

Soon we will be able to honour all our heroines and heroes in the most fitting manner: the adoption of a democratic constitution and the establishment of a government of all the people of our country.

In addition, the ANC is in the process of setting up a museum to record the history of our struggle. The museum is to be based at Fort Hare University and will include a section on MK. There will also be located within the museum a roll of honour to remember and celebrate the lives of our combatants who made the supreme sacrifice. It is our wish that this project serve to remind the children of a democratic South Africa of the great sacrifices and commitment which characterised the struggle for freedom and liberation in South Africa. The MK museum will also serve to capture the history of resistance of our people from the very onset of colonial domination.

It is also planned that we will construct at the museum a permanent monument in honour of our fallen comrades and combatants.

Finally, we are on this very day going to confer on some of our combatants, both posthumously and some who are here with us today, honours for their outstanding contribution to our struggle for freedom and liberation.

Conclusion

Indeed, today is a historic occasion. We are gathered here to celebrate our last anniversary as Umkhonto we Sizwe, but we are also gathered to recommit and rededicate ourselves to the struggle for democracy in our country. MK will forever remain in the hearts and minds of our people as that great liberating force which has made it possible together with all our people, through our collective efforts for us to be gat *ered here on the soil of our country.

The future is not going to be an easy one. In many respects the real struggle for freedom form want and oppression is just beginning albeit in a different form. As Umkhonto we Sizwe we pledge to stand side by side with you, the people of South Africa to ensure that together we usher in the dawn of freedom. We pledge further to continue to safeguard our democratic gains and consolidate our victories.

As we close this sad and difficult chapter in the history of our country, let us remember the ideals and aspirations, the trials and tribulations which together we have had to endure in order to give birth to a new society and to establish one nation. In that task MK has and will continue to play a critical role for we have not struggled in vain.

Umkhonto we sizwe remains your spear and shield.

MK Commander Discusses Negotiations, Past Actions

MB1712051493 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2046 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 16 SAPA—The African National Congress' [ANC] armed wing Unkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation, MK; ANC armed wing] commander Joe Modise says negotiations for the formation of a new national defence force are on track and progressing well. Speaking on the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] news programme Agenda on Thursday night Mr Modise said the attendance of representatives from Ciskei, Bophuthatswana and kwaZulu at the last negotiations session was "a promising sign" and he believed it "shows that we will reach one another".

Negotiations have been attended mainly by members of MK, the South African Defence Force and representatives from Venda and Transkei.

Mr Modise said he believed despite the Ciskei, Bophuthatswana and kwaZulu's opposition to the formation of one defence force a peaceful solution could be found.

Ciskei, Bophuthatswana and kwaZulu are members of the conservative Freedom Alliance and are opposed to the formation of a unitary state with one defence force.

Speaking on the day of the celebration of the 32nd anniversary of MK. Mr Modise denied the armed wing had in the past been involved in urban terrorism. In response to a question whether or not mk was responsible for the Pretoria Street bomb outside the South African Air Force headquarters in May 1982 which caused the death of a number of civilians, Mr Modise said "that was aimed at the air force—the heart of the South African Defence Force."

He said "the blast went off slightly before time" and added had it gone off five minutes later "it would have hit the cream of the air force".

Mr Modise said MK regretted the loss of civilian life in the blast and reiterated it was aimed at the "top brass". Mr Modise conceded, however, there might have been the "odd member who over-stepped his brief" and might have been involved in acts of urban terrorism.

He concluded "the signals were very clear from lusaka (the ANC [African National Congress]/MK headquarters during the years of exile) that we are fighting the regime and not the people."

CP Head Hartzenberg Calls for Afrikaner Volkstaat

MB1612141693 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1233 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Pretoria Dec 16 SAPA—Afrikaners relied on God as their religious atom bomb in their freedom struggle, Afrikaner Volksfront [AVF, Afrikaner National Front] chairman and Conservative Party leader Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg said on Thursday. Addressing a Day of the Vow rally at the Voortrekker Monument, he said the Afrikaner was prepared to negotiate the fair implementation of a volkstaat [national state]. "If we are not granted this, the (Afrikaner) nation should secure our freedom and our rightful share in South Africa," he said.

The rally was the culmination of a rightwing programme during which flag-bearers, horse-riders and oxwagens made their way to the monument from various areas.

Dr Hartzenberg said that in contrast to the Christian nature of the Afrikaner's own transitional executive authority, the majority of the parties of the newly-installed 19-member Transitional Executive Council were communists.

Communist Party leader Joe Slovo wanted to bring the sun down on the Afrikaner, the Zulu and Tzwana. But Dr Hartzenberg vowed: "We will never capitulate." The Afrikaner was again experiencing dark days, and was at risk of losing all and being subjugated. A revolution was taking place and South Africa was turning from a christian land to one that was to be dominated by communists. It was as though Satan was taunting God and saying, "test them to see if they remain religious," said Dr Hartzenberg.

The Afrikaner would again commemorate the vow, no matter what the conditions.

The neo-Nazi pageantry of the AWB at the services attracked much attention from foreign news services this week. But one of the favourite items with the crowd in the amphitheatre was Wednesday night's mock defensive manouevres by armed, uniformed Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] women who leapt from three cars. They prowled forward, pistols in hand, but as the cars sped away afterwards, some of them nearly got left behind to shouts of amusement from the crowd. The other members of he team however returned to convey them to "safety".

Hartzenberg Says Afrikaner Transitional Council To Exist

MB1612164593 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1500 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The Conservative Party leader, Dr. Ferdi Hartzenberg, says that the Afrikaner nation's own transitional council will come into effect at the end of the current parliamentary session and that if an area for self-determination cannot be negotiated, it will be claimed by his people.

Addressing a record crowd for a Day of the Vow commemoration ceremony at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria, Dr. Hartzenberg said that the Afrikaner nation was prepared to go to war if other nations attempted to subject it to what he called communist rule. He said the main duties of their own transitional council would be to address the issue of self-determination locally and internationally, to build healthy realtionships with other nations and to determine the area and borders of a possible future homeland for the Afrikaner.

General Viljoen Speaks on 'Struggle' of Afrikaners

MB1612161593 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1450 GMT 16 Dec 93

[By Greg Arde]

[Text] Blood River, northern Natal, Dec 16 SAPA—Afrikaners would reaffirm their vow to God if he brought them victory, Afrikaner Volksfront [AVF, Afrikaner National Front] leader Gen Constand Viljoen told over a 1,000 supporters on Thursday at Blood River in northern natal. Speaking at the historic site where a few hundred Voortrekkers slaughtered thousands of Zulus in

1838, Gen Viljoen urged Afrikaners to have faith in the face of today's "crisis" in South Africa.

He said Afrikaners had a lot to learn from their forefathers who must have felt even more threatened in the early 1800's than their descendants in 1993.

Surrounded by a solemn crowd of supporters, some khaki-clad and armed, others dressed in traditional Voortrekker garb, Gen Viljoen sang Die Stem and laid a wreath in the laager [circle of wagons] of cast iron oxwagons which marks the site of the Blood River battle.

His speech was mostly free of political reference, because, he said, the Day of the Vow was to honour God. However, the general tied in the historical significance of the battle to the struggle of Afrikaners today, saying:

"If you give us a victory over the darkness...in a peaceful way or not, we will reaffirm the vow." He was referring to the vow made by Voortrekker leader Andries Pretorius in 1838 for Afrikaners to honour December 16 if God granted them a victory over the Zulus at the Battle of Blood River.

Gen Viljoen said the Afrikaner struggle was for the conquest of Christianity over forces of darkness and strange ideologies like communism. Afrikaners at the time of the Blood River battle overwhelmed mightier forces, and they faced a similar challenge in 1993, he said, adding they should not lose faith in God because "his will be done".

The government and the African National Congress would have people believe that the Freedom Alliance had "missed the train", which it hadn't. It is better to build a nation on the basis of Christianity than on the "cleverness" at Kempton Park, Gen Viljoen said.

"The biggest lesson of Blood River ... is to trust in God," he added.

Some of Gen Viljoen's sentiments were echoed by members of the crowd, but others may have confused his hope for a peaceful settlement in South Africa. A few armed AWB [Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, Afrikaner Resistance Movement] members munching on boerewors [sausage] rolls and cooked mielies [corn on the cob] looked set for war, dressed in khaki and packing pistols on their hips.

While Gen Viljoen said the Afrikaner struggle was not for land, AWB Veldkoronet Johan Lexo said "what we ask for is a Boerestaat [Boer state], that's all". Like Gen Viljoen, Mr Lexo and his friends said their struggle was bound to religion and their God. "Apartheid was good because it gave us all a chance to develop ourselves...but the blacks didn't develop themselves," he said.

"I'm not equal to these kaffirs [blacks], regtig waar (honestly)," his friend, Coen Labuschagne said. "We want our piece of land. If they don't give us a homeland then that's a recipe for civil war," Mr Lexo said, adding

Afrikaners who had betrayed the cause of their "volk" should "repent" before God.

IFP's Buthelezi Issues Press Statement on Constitution

MB1612150593 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1417 GMT 16 Dec 93

[SAPA PR Wire service issued by Office of the Chief Minister of Kwazulu: "Press Statement by Dr MG Buthelezi, president of the Inkatha Freedom Party and chief minister of the kwaZulu government" in Ulundi on December 16]

[Text] In response to over-optimistic comments and an apparent continuing effort by the media to sow confusion in the minds of the electorate and fabricate discord between the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] members of Parliament and the IFP leadership, I wish to state categorically that the IFP has repeatedly made it abundantly clear that its prime objective is to obtain an all-inclusive acceptance of a jointly negotiated constitution.

The fact that the Conservative Party members of Parliament decided not to participate further in the discussions on the interim constitution bill in the joint parliamentary committee, was not a signal for a joint walk-out action, nor a sign of a split in the Freedom Alliance.

The IFP members of Parliament have been authorised to participate in the proceedings of the joint parliamentary committee only in so far as they are able to do so within the limits set by the Freedom Alliance document setting out the Freedom Alliance's requirements for acceptance of the interim constitution as presented to the South African Government before the commencement of the debate.

Only the IFP central committee may authorise any departure or deviation by the IFP members of parliament from those requirements.

To infer that IFP participation in the debate is in itself cause for optimism or indicative of a split in the Freedom Alliance, is both misleading and malicious.

The IFP as a party, and as a member of the Freedom Alliance, has repeatedly stated that it will leave no stone unturned in its effort to achieve a peacefully negotiated all-inclusive settlement. It is the combined efforts of the South African Government and the ANC/SACP [African National Congress/South African Communist Party] alliance which is doing its utmost to bulldoze through Parliament as fast as possible a defective interim constitution, in order to minimise opportunities for further meaningful discussions and negotiations with the Freedom Alliance.

Independent Parliament Member Joins Inkatha

MB1712120393 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1004 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Cape Town Dec 17 SAPA—Mr Cehill Pienaar, former Conservative Party and Afrikaner Volksunie [Afrikaner National Union] MP now an independent, has joined the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP]. He said in

a statement on Friday the IFP was the only political party espousing true federalism in which groups and nations could achieve maximum autonomy and exercise autonomy in a meaningful way. "This party and Chief Minister Buthelezi deserve the support of all freedomloving South Africans that wish to see freedom and prosperity flourish in a federal South Africa. "I therefore today pledged my support to the IFP."

Angola

UN's Beye Proposes Compromise To Break Impasse at Talks

MB1612181093 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 16 Dec 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] All week the Angolan peace talks in Lusaka have been up in the air again. UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] walked out on Monday [13 December], alleging that MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government forces had launched a bombing raid in the Angolan town of Cuito with the intention of killing UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi. They have been demanding an apology. The MPLA has been denying everything. But now the United Nations special representative who convened the talks, Alioune Blondin Beye, has apparently come up with a compromise proposal to try and save the talks. From Lusaka, Joe Mwinga telexed this report.

According to diplomatic sources, the United Nations has proposed an official investigation into the reported government attacks on UNITA positions that are threatening the peace talks here. The diplomatic sources said that the UN representative to Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, proposed the appointment of a commission to investigate the raids in a bid to get the two parties back to the negotiating table. Beye, who left for Angola on a fact-finding mission early this week, quietly returned to Lusaka last night and immediately met Angolan Government and UNITA representatives in separate meetings. At the time of sending this report, the two parties had yet to respond to Beye's proposal but analysts here believe it is unlikely that either side would object. The UNbrokered peace talks will remain suspended until the investigating team presents its finding to both parties. Depending on its report, the two rival camps might start talking again.

Luanda Radio Reports Proposal

MB1612195393 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The impasse continues in Lusaka, Zambia, despite all the efforts of Alioune Blondin Beye, UN special representative in Angola, to return the parties to the negotiating table. There is even talk that the UN Angola Verification Mission [Unavem] intends to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate allegations by Jonas Savimbi's movement that the government carried out an attempt on Savimbi's life. Even then, the Black Cockerel's organization remains intransigent. Jonas Savimbi's men continue to say no. Our correspondent Elias Andre reports:

Good evening. The impasse continues, although Alioune Blondin Beye is doing everything he can to resolve the situation. All day today Butrus-Ghali's special representative continued with his diplomatic contacts. He spoke with all parties present at the peace talks. Blondin Beye, supported by the observers, made another proposal to UNITA. Officially, the contents of this proposal are not known, but reliable sources say that Blondin Beye had informed UNITA about the creation of an inquiry commission by Unavem, which will establish whether or not the government made an attempt on Jonas Savimbi's life. According to our source, Beye requested the UNITA delegation to return to the negotiating table while the commission of inquiry is carrying out its work. However, UNITA's reply was a no [words indistinct] negotiating table when the commission of inquiry carries out its work [words indistinct].

UNITA Reportedly Abducts Civilians in Cuito

MB1712100093 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Report from correspondent Abel Abreu in Cuito]

[Text] About a dozen people, mostly women, have been abducted by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] rebels on the Cuito-Cunje road. Citizens who fled the scene have said many people were assaulted. Speaking to Radio Angola, the same sources confirmed that the rebels have been intimidating the population and have started abducting and murdering people described as undesirable and opposed to UNITA's policy.

Meanwhile, the residents of the besieged city of Cuito have expressed impatience at the delay of the Lusaka talks. In total disappointment over the UN Security Council's postponement of additional sanctions against UNITA, the citizens, according to the local radio, have stressed that this decision once again fails to contribute anything for the [word indistinct] of the Angolan people and encourages the intransigence of the UNITA rebels to perpetuate the suffering of the population.

Mozambique

Maputo Radio Reports 7,000 Malawi Pioneers in Milange

MB1612143593 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Only a few day ago, we reported that 7,000 Malawi Young Pioneers [MYP] had disappeared from Malawi. MYP are paramilitary forces in the pay of the Malawi Congress Party [MCP]. The independent publication THE MONITOR was quoted earlier this week as saying that 2,000 of those men had come into Mozambique's Zambezia Province. A Radio Mozambique reporter was in Malawi recently. He began by saying that

the 7,000 MYP men who are missing are in a Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] base in the (Molongwe) area of Zambezia Province's Milange District.

Malawi's independent newspaper THE MONITOR carried this report on its front page on 13 December. An article signed by (Akwete Sande) says those armed men penetrated Mozambique through Muloza and camped at the Renamo base in Milange. (Akwete Sande) further reports that eyewitnesses said that the armed men who crossed the border just before nightfall were also driving three pick-ups carrying assorted war materiel. THE MONITOR also learned that another group of MYP forces arrived in Mozambique last year to undergo military training, but it mentions neither the place where the training reportedly took place nor the date when it may have begun. Sources in that Malawian daily newspaper say that the group of armed men who have made it to Mozambique are operating under State Minister John Tembo's orders. John Tembo is said to want to succeed Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda and govern Malawi at all costs.

Radio Mozambique has learned that the paramilitary MYP forces were created by John Tembo, following the advice of [Portuguese colonialist] Jorge Jardim, who was his bosom friend. Jorge Jardim was seen on several occasions as a guest at John Tembo's house on Lake Nyasa.

The article we have been quoting also reports that large quantities of Renamo military uniforms were found at the headquarters of the ruling MCP, in Malawi. Sources contacted by Radio Mozambique said that the entry of armed MYP forces into Mozambican territory is in line with an old accord signed between Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama and John Tembo, who was Malawi's defense minister at the time. Quoting a detailed report, THE MONITOR also says that some 3,000 Muloza residents crossed the border and came into Mozambican territory after Dr. Kamuzu Banda's referendum defeat. Those people are said to be gradually blending into Mozambican society. Our source has also said that those people are staying in Renamo-controlled areas and have already been given farm land.

Dhlakama Says Renamo Controls 'Almost the Whole Country'

MB1612193893 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] There are reports from Nampula Province that Afonso Dhlakama, Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader, has invited President Joaquim Chissano and other political figures to visit Maringue, Gorongosa, and other Renamo-controlled areas. Afonso Dhlakama has alleged that there are no difficulties regarding entry into Renamo-controlled areas because, quote, the war is over in Mozambique, unquote.

The Renamo leader was answering a question put by Nampula-based newsmen shortly after he had flown in from Zambezia Province. He was asked whether President Joaquim Chissano would be allowed to hold rallies in Maringue, just as he, Afonso Dhlakama, has been allowed to do in government-administered areas. The Renamo leader reiterated that Renamo controls almost the whole country. He rejected the word zones because, in his perception, his movement controls everyone and everything. With regard to the troop confinement process. Dhlakama said that it has been a slow process for his men because they do not have cars, motorcycles, bicycles, helicopters or boats. He noted that his soldiers are often forced to do 200 to 250 km on foot to reach their troop confinement points, whereas the government forces have transport.

The newsmen asked him about rumored acts of revenge to be carried out by Renamo should it win the upcoming multiparty elections in 1994.

[Begin Dhlakama recording] We have said it before that we are not communist. We did not fight for (?power). We fought for (?freedom) and that is why you can ask me your questions. So, there is no reason for the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] to be afraid. Should Frelimo lose the elections, we will [words indistinct] opposition. We were the ones who (?restrained) Frelimo. At this stage, Frelimo is transferring army soldiers and equipment to its police force. There are people who are not going to the troop confinement points. They are going to the police stations and changing their uniforms. They are army soldiers, though. Frelimo is scared. We are [words indistinct] those (?ploys) [words indistinct] we will abide by it and we have explained that we will continue our (?peaceful) struggle. I hope Frelimo will behave in the same manner, should it lose the elections. Frelimo does not want to lose, though. They have been in power by force over the last 18 years. Do you understand me? [end recording]

The Renamo leader was asked to comment on an accusation made by a Malawian newspaper that 7,000 Malawi Young Pioneers [MYP], serving the Malawi Congress Party chaired by President Kamuzu Banda, had crossed over into Mozambique and sought refuge at a Renamo base in Milange, Zambezia Province. This was Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama's reply:

[Begin Dhlakama recording] That is propaganda. I have never heard anything of the kind before. I have been following the situation in Malawi and I know there has been fighting between the Malawi Army and the MYP forces. They have been killing each other, so the army is now supposed to be disarming them. Now, I do not know how such events can make people say that those men are now seeking refuge at a Renamo base. I do not understand that. For a start, it is Frelimo itself that says that Renamo does not have [words indistinct] in the country. Now, how can one accept [words indistinct] 2,000 Malawians? What for? Frelimo itself can verify that that is childish propaganda. [end recording]

Maputo Radio Views Dhlakama's Zambezia Tour

MB1612151793 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Report from Quelimane by Radio Mozambique correspondent Rui Barata]

[Text] Afonso Dhlakama, Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader, wound up his six-day visit to Zambezia Province today. He tried to project the image of a democrat who will never return to war and who is distancing himself from a purely military Renamo to move toward a more political Renamo that might be the alternative in this country. Dhlakama was careful enough to present an image of tolerance. He did not go in for any finger-pointing against the government and showed greater respect than usual for the head of state. In Quelimane, Mocuba, and Alto Molocue, the Renamo leader's message focused on the end of the war. He also thanked the people for supporting his organization in, quote, the struggle against communism, unquote.

In Mocuba, the second city of Zambezia, Afonso Dhlakama addressed a rally attended by no more than 3,500 people who had already become tired of waiting and who were cautious observers. A member of the Renamo Woman's League said that, quote, I have come to receive something in exchange for the support I gave Renamo, unquote. Another citizen said that, as Renamo guerrillas had enjoyed free food and drink in Muaquia during the war, Renamo should now offer its residents an ambulance.

[Begin Dhlakama recording] Yes, old man, we are going to consider the issue you have raised. Your son has heard you. I have your problem on my mind. Muaquiua area has transportation needs, right? Yes, brother, I have heard you. We are going to study that matter.

The movement of Renamo troops to confinement points has been rather slow and I am going to explain why: Our troops are moving from their bases to the assembly points. They are covering distances of 150, 200 km, and more, on foot, in jungle and mountainous areas. So, it is taking them days to arrive at assembly points. By contrast, the government's confinement points are its own barracks. In other words, the government has no need to move troops. [end recording]

At his Mocuba rally, Dhlakama asked the people not to be halfhearted in their support and he added that the struggle for democracy will end with the holding of elections next year. One of the questions the people asked was precisely whether elections would go ahead on the scheduled date. Dhlakama replied in the following manner:

[Begin Dhlakama recording] Barring some incident which must be properly explained to the people, elections will take place exactly in October of next year. As I speak to you now, I would like to confirm that elections will be held in October of next year. [end recording]

Afonso Dhlakama expressed satisfaction about the work being done by the Police of the republic, which he described as an apolitical force. He did not feel the same about the work done by the national media, though, and he proceeded to describe the Radio Mozambique team covering the rally as, quote, servants who toe the boss' line so they do not lose their jobs, unquote.

Dhlakama traveled by air in all stages of his tour of Zambezia Province. His powerfully armored Mercedes Benz tried out the muddy roads—Zambezia Province is having its rainy season now—but it was only useful to convey him to the rally venues. To those who may be less observant, he may have appeared to be a great president with the trimmings of an head of state. Those who know more may feel that the Renamo president is allowing himself to be taken in by luxurious things which are no more than sugar-coated daggers.

Demonstrators Protest Visit of Renamo's Dhlakama

MB1712095493 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo], yesterday began a tour of Nampula Province and is scheduled to leave for Mozambique Isle and Nacala today. On 19 December, Dhlakama is scheduled to address a mass rally in the city of Nampula. On his arrival in Nampula yesterday, many people demonstrated against his presence, because Renamo allegedly perpetrated a number of atrocities, causing suffering among the people whose support he needs today. Many people carried placards with slogans noting the pain and suffering the people faced during war.

European Community Sponsors Independent Media Project

MB1612153493 Maputo MEDIAFAX in Portuguese 16 Dec 93 p 2

[Excerpt] The European Community has just granted 404,000 European Currency Units (about \$450,000) to the Molisv [Italian nongovernmental organization)-Mediacoop [Mozambique journalists cooperative proprietor of MEDIAFAX] project aimed at promoting an "independent news media to support Mozambique's electoral and peace process."

The project, which will begin in January 1994, will be centered in the cities of Maputo, Beira, Quelimane, and Nampula, involving hundreds of journalists and other social activists. The project includes public debates, TV and radio talk shows, as well as "workshops" on democratization and electoral training. [passage omitted]

Burkina Faso

Cabinet Adopts Bill on Sending Contingent to Burundi

AB1712102593 Ouagadougou Radiodiffusion Nationale du Burkina Radio in French 1900 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held a regular meeting today, 15 December at 0900 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Youssouf Ouedraogo. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Defense Ministry, the Cabinet adopted a bill that authorizes the sending of a military security contingent to Burundi. This bill is aimed at enabling the government to answer favorably, like other African countries, the OAU's request regarding peace and security measures that it has decided to put in place for the settlement of the Burundian conflict.

This decision agrees with resolutions made by the OAU Central Committee on the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts in Africa. Various heads of state, who are members of this committee, recently met in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire

Government Reportedly Announces Houphouet-Boigny's Funeral Date

AB1612205693 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network in French 1900 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Questions about when the late President Houphouet-Boigny of Cote d'Ivoire will be buried are now over. The new government in Abidjan has just fixed the funeral for the late president for the first fortnight in February of next year, that is, in two months' time.

Mourning continues in Zaire in solidarity with Cote d'Ivoire, where national radio and television programs continue to be punctuated with religious music.

President Appoints New Government Secretary General

AB1612153593 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 16 Dec 93 p 9

[Text] During the first meeting of the new Council of Ministers held on 15 December, the president of the Republic signed a decree appointing Adolphe Djidji Kadjo as secretary general of the government. Before his appointment, Mr. Djidji Kadjo was district attorney at the Daloa Court of Appeal.

President Bedie Meets With Opposition Leader

AB1612184693 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 15 Dec 93 p 5

[Abel Doualy report: "Full Powers for Dona-Fologo Within the Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire, PDCI. President of the Republic Above Parties."]

[Excerpts] As part of audiences granted to people since he became chief executive of this country, the president of the Republic, His Excellency Henri Konan Bedie, received yesterday evening at his Cocody [suburb of Abidjan] residence, members of the Great Chancellery of the Order of the Republic, headed by its leader, Germain Coffi Gadeau.

Replying to condolences over the death of President Houphouet-Boigny and congratulations for the high office of head of state that he has assumed henceforth, Konan Bedie said how much he appreciated the visit by the men of the Order of the Republic.

He took the opportunity to greet the fight by the PDCI-RDA [African Democratic Rally] pioneers, including Germain Coffi Gadeau, whom he described rightly as a "mentor of the PDCI-RDA that is led by Laurent Dona-Fologo." President Bedie explained that "our secretary general will continue to lead the party with the necessary full powers, the support of all the militants of our party, without distinction by age, race, religion, or region."

President Bedie made it a point to reassure his party activists that "the PDCI-RDA will live in strengthened cohesion in these days of mourning and the remaining days, weeks, months, and years of the nation. On my part, as head of state, and therefore being necessarily above the parties, I have already adopted some measures to reinforce the union and unity of all Ivorians: Men and women alike."

Furthermore, the head of state said, "the government will work toward reinforcing national integration each day." [passage omitted]

The great chancellor of the National Order reassured President Bedie that his message "was well received as far as we are concerned. Better still, I am convinced that there are many—the daughters, sons, and friends of this beautiful country—who are ready to renew with Your Excellency the contract of trust, brotherhood, and love that they once signed with late Felix Houphouet-Boigny."[passage omitted]

Ghana

Parliament Adopts Resolution on Funds Withdrawal

AB1612224393 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Parliament today adopted a resolution permitting the president to authorize the withdrawal from the consolidated fund to meet expenditure necessary to carry on the services of the government for the first three months of the next financial year. This followed a motion by the minister of finance, Dr. Kwesi Botchwey, in accordance with Article 180 of the Constitution which provides for a parliamentary resolution to allow the president to authorize expenditure in advance of the passing of the Appropriations Bill.

According to the provisional estimates for the first quarter of next year, total government expenditure is 182.7 billion cedis. This includes about 75 billion cedis for current expenditure, 19.9 billion cedis for pensions, gratuities, and social security payments, and 43.9 billion cedis for interest payments on domestic and external debts. Capital expenditure for development and net landing takes 44 billion cedis.

The memorandum attached to the estimate said government will strictly enforce the provisions. It warned that under no circumstances should votes provided in provisional estimate be used to defray indebtedness carried over from the 1993 fiscal year. To ensure that agencies operate strictly within the allocations made for the quarter, the comptroller and accountant general will issue to all treasuries drawing limits on a monthly basis.

Heads of government agencies will be required to submit returns of actual expenditure on a monthly basis to the Ministry of Finance not later than 10 working days after the end of each month.

Liberia

Southeastern Region Signs Peace, Unity Agreement

AB1612182693 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The people of the southeastern region have signed a treaty to unite them and prevent ethnic violence. The treaty, which was signed 28 October in Ivory Coast [Cote d'Ivoire] during an assembly of citizens from Sinoe, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, and Maryland counties, was made public yesterday in Monrovia at a press conference by Counselor Chea Chipo who just returned from a fact finding mission in Ivory Coast and Ghana.

According to the treating py of which was given to the LIBERIA NEWS ACT [LINA], the people of the southeastern region in resolved never to be used against each other and promised to promote mutual understanding and cooperation among themselves. The southeastern region consists of the (Grabo), Krahn and Kru ethnics groups. The treaty, according to LINA report, forbids any of the three tribes from fighting each other and the violators will be dealt with according to tradition. They however warned that any attack on one of the ethnic groups will be construed as an aggression against all the other tribes. The treaty called on combatants presently fighting alongside various warring factions

in the region, to lay down their arms and surrender to ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group].

Article five of the treaty condemns the Liberian civil war, emphasizing that it had not served any national interest but an act of revenge, genocide, and greed for power.

Meanwhile, an organization called the Southeastern Liberian Organization, SELO, has been created to oversee the implementation of the provisions of the treaty. Counselor Chea Cheapoo, former chief justice of Liberia, was selected chairman of SELO.

Mali

Situation on Mauritanian Border Improves 'Significantly'

AB1612152593 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 1500 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The situation on the Malian-Mauritanian border has continued to improve. For over six months now, no cattle thefts have been reported. This observation was made by the governor of the First Region and his Mauritanian counterparts following an inspection tour of several villages along the common border. In this regard, our reporter Mamadou Diakite interviewed Governor Lancine Kone:

[Begin recording] [Kone] We have inspected areas down to Gobi, in Nioro district, and conveyed the same message as last year to the population. All our instructions have been complied with, and as a result the situation has improved significantly along the border. Mutual understanding prevails now between the Malian and Mauritanian people living along our common border. This is also true for the administrative and military authorities in these areas.

[Diakite] After the various joint meetings in (Alyoun) in December 1992 and in Kayes last September, there were plans to set up committees in border villages in order to solve any problem that may arise. How far have we got with the plans?

[Kone] I can say we have already achieved some results. We have set up village commissions on both sides of the border. These commissions have been working hand in hand to solve the problems that crop up among the people, especially security and other social problems. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Niger

President Ousmane Returns From Egypt, Morocco

AB1612154893 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Excerpt] President Mahamane Ousmane returned to Niamey early this afternoon after a nine-day visit to Egypt and Morocco. In Cairo, he attended the minisummit of heads of state and government belonging to the OAU central body charged with working out the mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. His five-day visit to Rabat was a friendly and working one. The head of state sums up his visit to these countries.

[Begin recording] We have visited the Maghreb. During the first stage of our visit, we participated in the minisummit of the OAU central body, a body set up at the last summit of our common organization on 9 July. This summit put in place mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa. As you are aware, this body has begun its operations and the summit was the first high-level meeting devoted to that mechanism. As you are aware, this mechanism is controlled at three levels: First, at the ambassadorial level; second, at the foreign and cooperation ministerial level; and third, at the heads of state level.

This last level is composed of heads of state who have the heavy responsibility of implementing the mechanisms for preventing and resolving disputes on the continent. This first meeting has therefore made it possible, on one hand, to examine the structure that has been set up since the last summit and on the other hand, to broadly review the general situation in Africa, especially the situation in the areas of conflict. [end recording] [passage omitted].

Nigeria

Abacha Comments on National Unity With Traditional Rulers

AB1612182193 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 2000 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The head of state, General Sani Abacha, said today in Lagos that Nigerians should not allow the country's recent political troubles to cancel the gains already made towards national unity. Gen. Abacha made the appeal when he met with traditional rulers from Adamawa and Kogi States. He said Nigeria has achieved a remarkable break from regional, ethnic, and religious influences in the last 10 years.

The head of state, talking about the forthcoming constitutional conference, said participants should take cognizance of the positive aspects of the 1989 Constitution in evolving a lasting political framework for Nigeria. He urged traditional rulers to assist the military administrators recently posted to the states in the war against indiscipline and corruption.

Also today, delegations from Sokoto and Kebbi States were received by Gen. Sani Abacha. Led by the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki, the Sultan appealed to Nigeria's foreign friends to help the country solve her problems the Nigerian way. The Sultan, in chat with State House correspondent, later said his delegation was in Dodan Barracks to give fatherly advice to Gen.

Abacha to other Nigerians who are assisting in the running of the new administration. The delegation from Kogi State was led by Alhaji Aliyu Obaje, the Atta of Igala, while the group from Adamawa State was led by Lamido Adamawa, Alhaji Aliyu Mustapha.

Official Urges West To Reconsider Stand on Sanctions

AB1712104093 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Nigeria has again called on the Western nations to reconsider the issue of sanctions against her. Reacting to the latest decision by the American Administration to ban a category of Nigerians from visiting the United States, the minister of information, Professor Jerry Gana, appealed to all friends of Nigeria to give the country a chance. The minister said Nigerians should be given the opportunity to fashion out a society that guaranteed peace for all the citizens. He emphasized that Nigeria's friends should give the nation support and not frustrate her efforts.

Station Condemns Sanctions by Western Countries

AB1612201693 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Mohammed Okorijor commentary]

[Text] It seems that the West are not tired about their singsong about sanctions against Nigeria. If they are not, Nigerians are—even up to the point of exasperation. One of the latest such economic famine has been imposed by Britain, which is now denying Nigeria aid running into several millions of naira. Ironically, Britain is our past colonial master and savors that position egocentrically. Nigerians have never grudged London's claim to this position and have so much helped to enhance the status quo that the constant resort to sanctions now evolves odium from Nigerians.

While it is true that Nigeria cannot stop Western nations from imposing sanctions for reasons they perceive as cogent, such cogency is arguable. The truth is that these Western nations want Nigeria and Nigerians to see things through their own eyes and reason their own way. But this cannot hold because Nigeria has problems that are manifestly different and peculiar to African cultural hegemony. This is quite different from Western dialectics.

Another very ominous development is the denial of some leading Nigerians entry into the United States. Although the argument is that the move is directed against the military because they cause the political stalemate, the action is capable of ripple effect on the civilian population. It seems from the standpoint of the U.S. that they want to profess to know Nigeria's problems more than Nigerians themselves. But then Washington recognizes as a positive step the naming of a

cabinet which is representative of many elements of the Nigerian society. By this acceptance of nationalistic inclination on the part of the present administration, Washington ought to have allowed us the benefit of doubt and given us time to find our way out of the political maze we found ourselves.

Western countries cannot claim ignorance of the fact that the generality of Nigerians have welcomed the Abacha regime as the better of two evils. It came to save the nation from disintegration. The visits of solidarity and support from virtually all sections of the Nigerian polity are a clear testimony that the present setup is welcome to Nigerians, even the very vocal prodemocracy groups. Surely, Western nations cannot claim to love Nigeria more than Nigerians.

Now, it is quite obvious that the reason why democracy fails in Nigeria, nay Africa, is that it is premature and it is being rammed too hard down our throats. Prodemocracy groups in Nigeria have conceded that the political class failed the nation. Now we need a more solid base on which to base our own type of political structures, not through acculturation. The Nigerian head of state, General Sani Abacha, has consistently pleaded for understanding and support from the international community over our problems. We need this genuine asistance now more than ever before. The sort Russia is enjoying from the West, even in its turbulent political experimentation.

Gen. Abacha's plea is not out of fear but born out of Nigeria's genuine desire to join the democratic club—our bid at the most opportune and ripe age. The West cannot forget so soon how many centuries it took them to achieve their present political status, which cannot be said to be totally fullproof. They cannot also turn a blind eye to all the bestialities of all the wars they fought to evolve political systems that suit them. They should give us in this part of the global [word indistinct] a breather to try our hands at what is best suited to our environment, culture, and specie.

Sanctions do hurt, but they also have a way of helping people get alternatives and teaching them to be self-sufficient. Maybe this spate of sanctions will do just that for Nigerians who can do with an inward-looking philosophy now more than any other time in her political history. So arise, oh compatriots! The national call obey so that we do not become victims in the hands of do-gooders of today's world.

Sierra Leone

Mineral Resources Minister Meets With Russian Delegation

AB1712110093 Freetown SLBS Radio in English 2000 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Recent bilateral trade links forged between Sierra Leone and Russia have been described as a milestone for sustainable development of both nations by the secretary of state for mineral resources, Captain Reginald A. Glover. Talking to a three-man Russian delegation representing (Pharma Ditech), an international and technological concern, at his new building office, Capt. Glover said that the presence of the delegation is indicative of positive business plans which the Russian Federation has for this country.

The secretary of state expressed concern over the delay in the implementation of the Russian proposals. Capt. Glover informed the team that when the venture would have started, it should serve as a test case for bilateral business relationship between the two countries. Capt. Glover observed that even after the disintegration of the Soviet Socialist Republic, Sierra Leone and Russia still maintain friendly relationship and hoped that this would grow in the years ahead.

Responding, the leader of the delegation, Mr. (Boris Zubarov) said he was delighted to meet with the secretary of state and emphasized his delegation's desire to build stronger ties between Sierra Leone and Russia. Mr. (Zubarov) expressed satisfaction over the present trend of Sierra Leone's economy, which he said is very encouraging for international business concerns. He recalled that geological experts would soon arrive from Russia to help in that area of their business.

Mr. Zubarov noted the warmth of the people of this country, adding that their stay here had convinced them that contrary to what they learned in the past from the international press, Sierra Leone is a well-organized society under the National Provisional Ruling Council Government.

The permanent secretary, Mr. Wole Tsoyin and the director of mines, Mr. T.L. Belewa, took part in the deliberations.

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